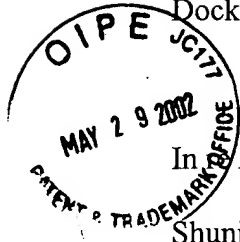


Docket No.: 43890-552

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application of

Shunji IMAI, et al.

Serial No.: 09/986,975

Group Art Unit: 1746

Filed: November 13, 2001

Examiner: not yet assigned

For: WASHING APPARATUS AND METHOD OF WASHING LAUNDRY

#3
SH
6/3/02

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
MAY 30 2002
TC 1700

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

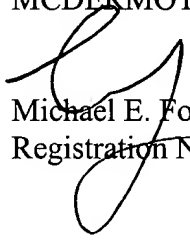
Each non-English language reference was cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the foreign search report or office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

09/986,975

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 29, 2002

[illegible]

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.